



SECRET FREEDOM
PART 2 OF 4

ISSUE **42**

SEGA®

SONIC **UNIVERSE**™

WHEN SONIC
IS AWAY...



...THEY MAKE
EVIL
PAY.

UNSUNG HEROES

Starring:
SILVER the HEDGEHOG · ELIAS ACORN · KING IXIS NAUGUS
and GEOFFREY St. JOHN as the IXIS APPRENTICE

Travis Yodley! + Steve!

Welcome to the planet Mobius -- a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Silver the Hedgehog has joined a secret team of freedom fighters to undermine the evil King Ixis Naugus and save the future!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

The city of New Mobotropolis is under SIEGE!

Sonic the Hedgehog's home city continues to reel following the devastating attacks of Dr. Eggman. These attacks have led to the destruction of the city's heroes, the Freedom Fighters.

To make matters worse, the city has also been attacked from within! The evil Wizard Ixis Naugus has usurped the crown of Acorn, and driven the former king Elias Acorn and his family into exile! King Naugus has used his dark magic to turn the tide of public opinion in his favor, but such an unstable and evil ruler has put the entire kingdom and its people in jeopardy.

But in the shadows a new team of Secret Freedom Fighters have formed to do the work that the public heroes can't do -- put an end to Naugus's rule! To take down the brutal tyrant, the SFF have turned to tracking down his apprentice, Geoffrey St. John, as he traveled abroad for reasons unknown. Geoffrey was confronted by Silver's squad while extracting a mysterious artifact from ancient ruins. While the slippery skunk managed to escape, he was also tagged with a tracking device.

Silver, Shard and Larry Lynx are battling Geoffrey, while Elias Acorn, Leeta and Lyco are charged with tracking Naugus and confronting the terror **BELOW THE CITY...**



WHO'S WHO



ELIAS ACORN
DEPOSED KING
--CALL SIGN "KING"



LYCO WOLF
WOLF PACK TWIN
--CALL SIGN "QUEEN OF
HEARTS"



LEETA WOLF
WOLF PACK TWIN
--CALL SIGN "QUEEN OF
DIAMONDS"



KING NAUGUS
CONVINCING IXIS
WIZARD

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"IT'S JUST BEFORE DAWN, AND THE TARGET IS ON THE MOVE."

"HE'S BEEN HEADING FOR THE SAME POINT IN THE CITY AT THE SAME TIME FOR DAYS NOW-- LIKE CLOCKWORK."

UP EARLY, YOUR MAJESTY?

JUST LOOKING AFTER THAT NASTY HOLE IN THE GROUND THAT THE ARMADA LEFT US. DON'T YOU WORRY OVER IT.

KING IXIS NAUGUS (EVIL?) WIZARD

UNSUNG HEROES PART 2:

THE TERROR BELOW

IAN FLYNN : writer / TRACY YARDLEY! : pencils / JIM AMASH : inks / JACK MORELLI : letters / STEVE DOWNER : colors
YARDLEY! & DOWNER : cover / Variant cover art provided by SEGA / VINCENT LOVALLO : Assistant Editor
PAUL KAMINSKI : Editor/Executive Director of Editorial / VICTOR GORELICK : Editor-in-Chief / MIKE PELLERITO : President
Special thanks to ANTHONY GACCIONE & CINDY CHAU at Sega Licensing

"THE PIT'S WHERE CASTLE ACORN ONCE STOOD."

"THE BATTLE BIRD ARMADA INVADED AND BLASTED A HOLE THAT'S WHO KNOWS HOW DEEP." *

"WITHOUT NICOLE TO CONTROL THEM, THE NANITES COULD ONLY REBUILD SO FAR. SHE WOULD'VE HAD THE CASTLE REBUILT IN HOURS."

*BABYLON RISING, S.U. #33-36



"WHY IS NAUGUS SO INTERESTED IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND?"

LEETA WOLF
CALL SIGN "QUEEN OF DIAMONDS"
WOLF PACK TWIN

"THAT'S WHAT MY TEAM HAS BEEN SENT TO FIND OUT."

OKAY,
WE'RE CLEAR.

ELIAS ACORN
CALL SIGN "KING"
DEPOSED KING

LYCO WOLF
CALL SIGN "QUEEN OF HEARTS"
WOLF PACK TWIN

"THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I REJECTED BEING KING. HOW IRONIC IT IS, THEN, THAT I'M SKIRTING THE EDGE OF THE LAW TO FIGHT AND GET IT BACK."

WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE'LL BE CLEAR. WE NEED TO MOVE IN NOW!

THERE'S NO MORE COVER BETWEEN US AND THE TARGET. JUST BE READY TO SPRINT!

"DIRECTOR HARVEY WHO PUT TOGETHER THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS. HE CHOSE THE MEMBERS WITH HIS EXPERIENCE AS A SPY IN MIND, BUT...

"...NONE OF THEM WOULD'VE BEEN MY FIRST CHOICE--OR SECOND, OR EVEN THIRD. BUT I HAVE TO PLAY THE HAND I'M DEALT."









hmm...THE
QUICKSTER
IS AWAY,
AND THE WALRUS
IS TOO FAT TO
BE STEALTHY.

PERHAPS IT WAS
JUST THE WIND.
OR ONE OF YOU.
NEVER GIVE ME
A MOMENT'S
PEACE...



DON'T PLAY COY--
OF COURSE I MEAN
YOU!

THAT'S NO
EXCUSE.

SILENCE!
ALL OF YOU!

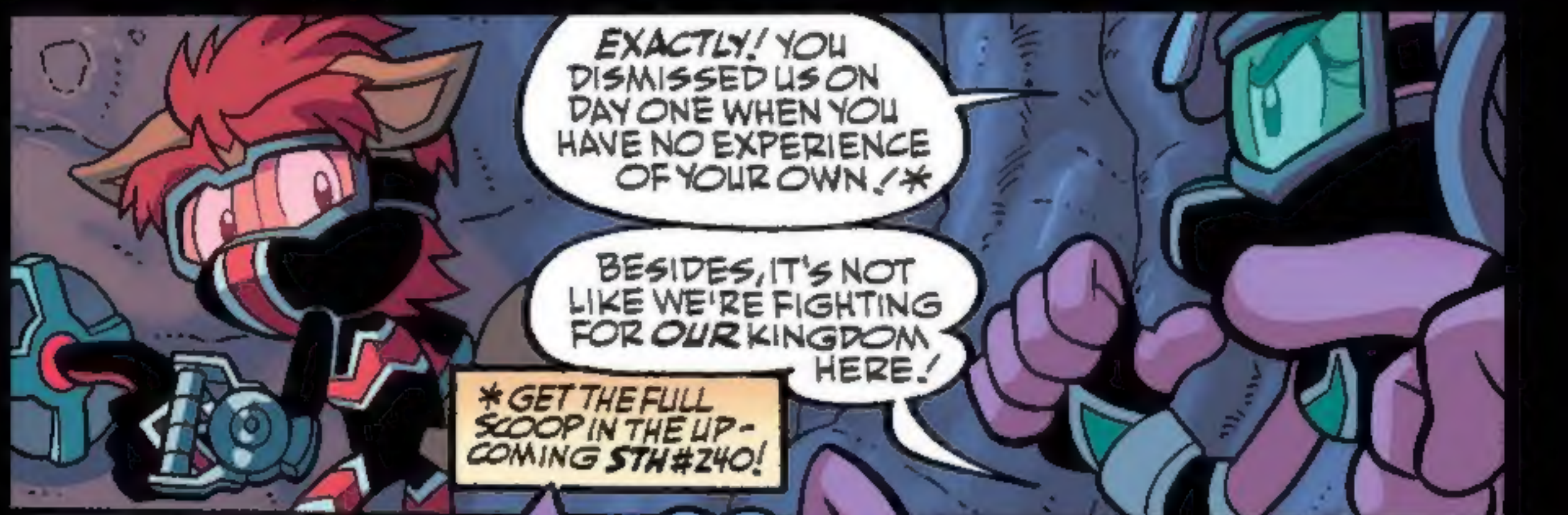


WE'RE
CLEAR.

WAS HE
TALKING
TO US?

I DON'T THINK
SO. IF HE KNEW
WE WERE HERE,
WHY DIDN'T HE
ATTACK?

I
DON'T KNOW.
WHO ELSE COULD
HE BE TALKING
TO?





WELCOME TO NEW MOBOTROPOLIS, LADIES. I AM DIRECTOR HARVEY WHO. I AM THE ONE WHO SENT FOR YOU... AND I APOLOGIZE FOR THE CONFUSION.

BUT THE GRAND CHIEF SAID WE WERE TO BE SERVING THE KING?

I'VE GOT TO RETURN TO MY DUTIES.

THEY'RE ALL YOURS, HARVEY.

AND YOU ARE. THE TRUE KING STEPPED DOWN TO PRESERVE THE PEACE DURING THESE TRYING TIMES. BUT THE ACTING KING IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

SONIC'S TEAM FIGHTERS IS ABROAD FIGHTING DR. EGGMAN. ROTOR'S TEAM FREEDOM IS BOUND BY LAW AND LOYALTY.

I'M PUTTING TOGETHER A TEAM TO PROTECT THE CITY IN WAYS THE OTHER TWO TEAMS CANNOT.

HEROES WITH UNTAPPED POTENTIAL WHO CAN AVOID THE SPOTLIGHT AND STILL KEEP US SAFE.

WILL YOU HELP ME?

BUT NAUGUS IS A THREAT THAT MUST BE DEFEATED.

THAT'S NOT WHAT WE THOUGHT WE WERE SIGNING UP FOR...

AND WE'RE USED TO THE DIRECT APPROACH...

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A COUPLE OF SECRET AGENTS, DIRECTOR WHO.

EXCELLENT.

I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU GIRLS.

AND WE GOT
YOU OUT OF A
FERAL FOREST,
DIDN'T WE?

THE DIRECTOR
THOUGHT THE TEAM
PERFORMED WELL
ON OUR FIRST
MISSION. *

BUT IF YOU
CAN'T DECIDE
WHETHER THIS TEAM
IS WORTH IT OR NOT,
THEN WE CAN'T TRUST
YOU TO LEAD US.

SET THE
BOMB. WE'LL
HANDLE THE
REST.

*SUBSCRIBE TO SONIC THE
HEDGEHOG AND SEE FOR
YOURSELF IN STH# 239-240
COMING SOON!

THIS TUNNEL GOES
ON FOREVER. WE MUST
BE HALF-WAY ACROSS
THE CITY BY NOW.



AND GIVEN OUR
DIRECTION, I'D SAY
THAT WE'RE...

...DIRECTLY UNDER THE
ROYAL MILITARY HQ.
IS HE PLANNING ON
ATTACKING THE
COUNCIL FROM
BELOW?

IF SO, WHY
MAKE SUCH A
BIG, ORNATE
ROOM?

AND WHAT'S
WITH ALL THE
MAGIC
RUNES?

HRZK...
HRPH...

GIVE IN, ALREADY!
YOUR FIGHT IS
FUTILE.

NO...MY
BODY...
YOU'RE
JUST
GHOSTS...

GHOSTS THAT
WILL HAUNT
YOU TO YOUR
END. THE
SOONER THAT
COMES, THE
SOONER
YOU'LL BE
RELEASED!

BEGONE!
I HAVE WORK
TO DO!

HAHAHA!
LOOK AT HIM
STRUGGLE!

BARGH!!
VILLAINS!
PARA-
SITES!

AT THE VERY LEAST
YOU CAN STOP TRYING
TO MAINTAIN THIS
FORM. NOBODY CAN
SEE YOU HERE. LET
LOOSE A LITTLE!

IF... IT...
WILL...
QUIET...
YOU...

RRRAAUGH!

AAHHH!!

WHO'S THERE?!

MEANWHILE...

...AND WHERE
DO THEY GET THE
GALL TO TELL ME
HOW TO GO ABOUT
SAVING MY
KINGDOM...

...BUT YOU SHOULDN'T
BE WASTING YOUR
ENERGY DOING THIS,
NOT WHEN IT CLEARLY
JEOPARDIZES
THE MISSION!

AND WHERE DO I GET
TO JUDGE ANYONE,
GIVEN HOW I'VE HANDLED
THINGS IN THE PAST? I
SHOULD FOLLOW MY OWN
ADVICE AND STOP PICK-
ING FIGHTS WITH MY
OWN TEAM!

I'LL LINK
BACK UP WITH
THE TWINS. MAYBE I
CAN APOLOGIZE AND GET
US ALL FOCUSED ON THE
MISSION BEFORE
SOMETHING--

AAAAHHH!!



VWOOSH

RUMBLE

KRAK

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

HE'S
TURNING
THE PLACE
INTO A
MAZE TO
TRAP US.
CLEVER.

...AND IT'S
WORKING.

CRUD.



KING! WE'VE
GOT TROUBLE!
I BLEW OUR
COVER, AND--!

WHAT THE--?/
THERE WASN'T
A BRANCHING
PATH HERE
BEFORE!

HE'S RE-
SHAPING
THE CAVE
TO TRAP
US AND TO
HIDE WHAT-
EVER HE'S
DOING DOWN
HERE!

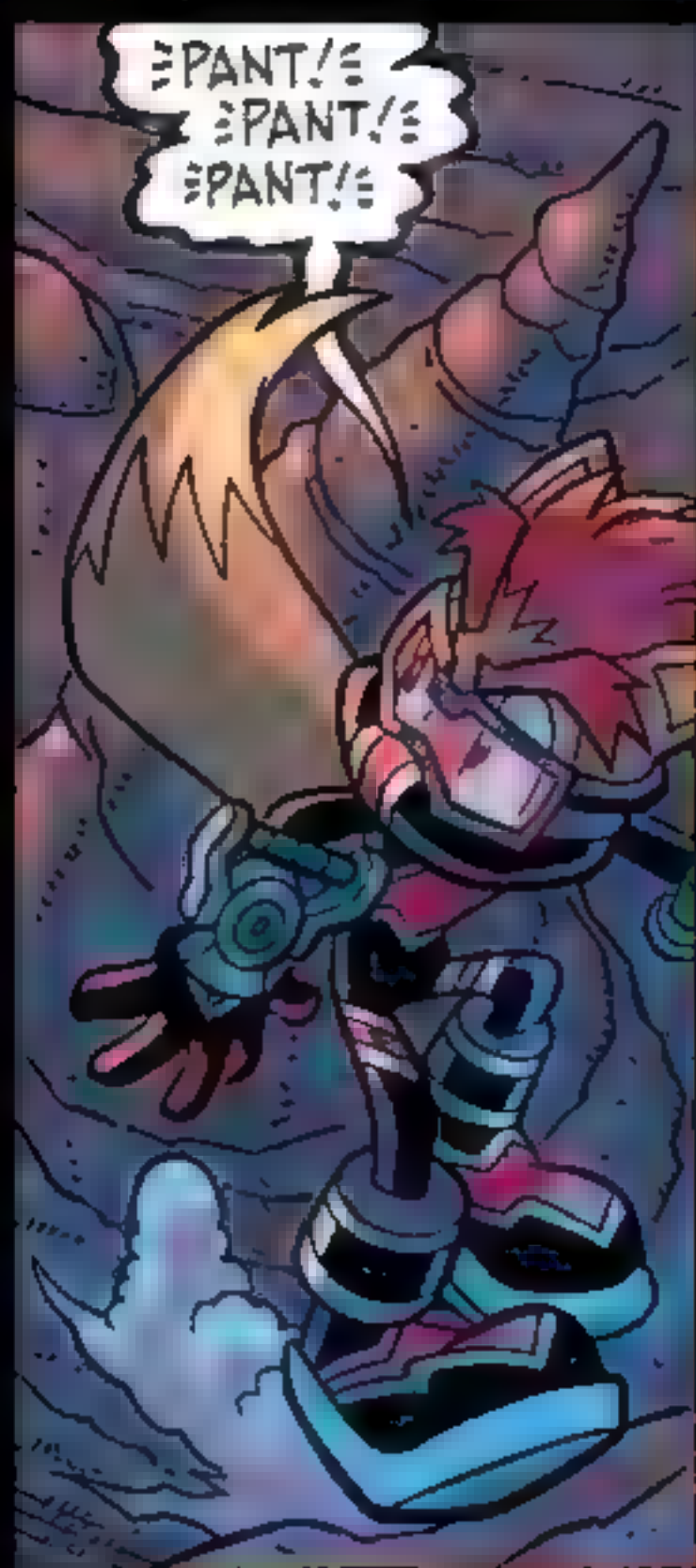
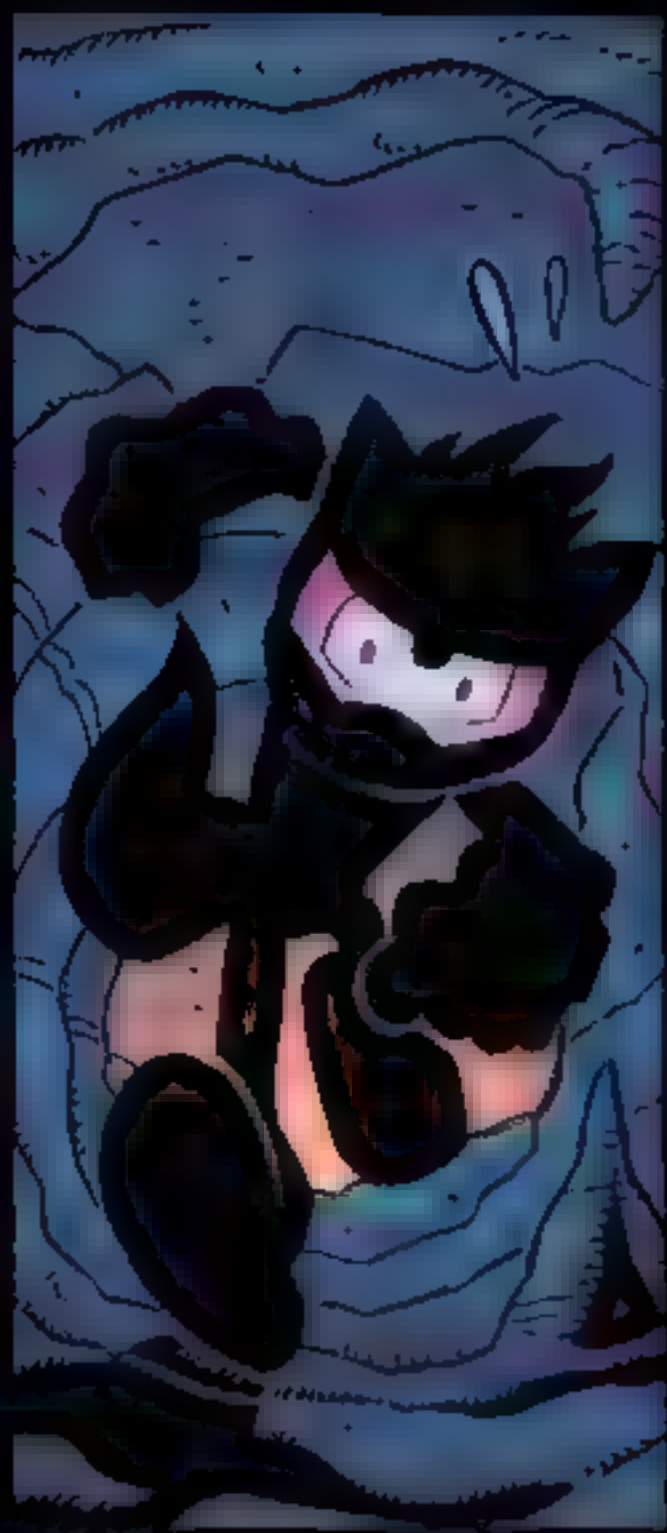
I'VE BEEN
MARKING THE
RIGHT WAY--

OKAY...
NEW
PLAN.

SPLIT UP!
STICK TO
ONE WALL
AND DOUBLE-
BACK IF YOU
HIT A DEAD
END!

WHY
DID YOU
HAVE TO
SAY
"DEAD
END"?

UHH...
ARE YOU SURE
ABOUT THAT?



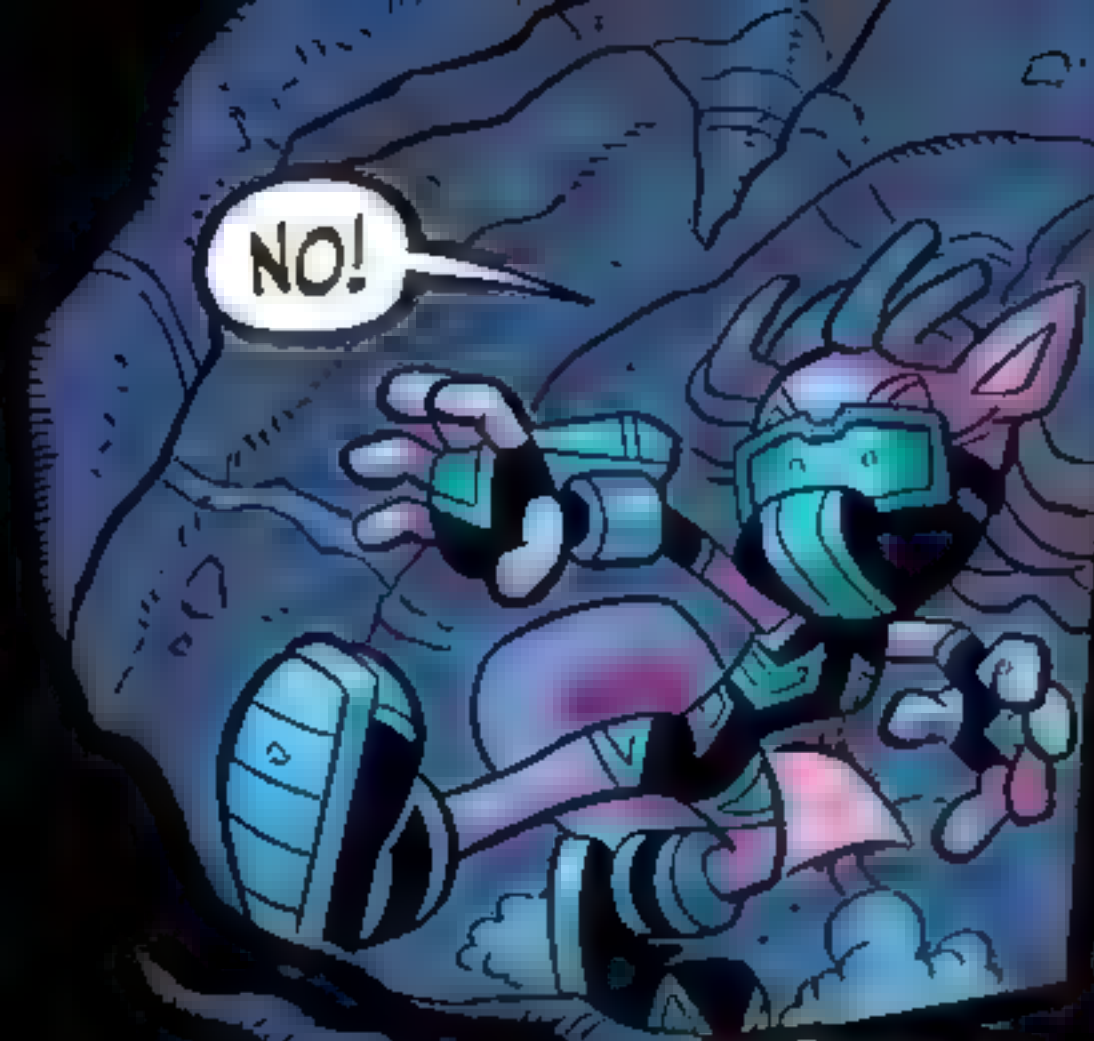
YOU CANNOT HIDE,
INTRUDERS! THERE IS
NO ESCAPE! YOU WILL
TAKE MY SECRET TO
YOUR GRAVES!

WHO ARE YOU?
WHERE
ARE YOU?!



...WHAT IN
THE WORLD
HAPPENED
TO HIM?!





NO!



KEEP IT TOGETHER!
JUST DOUBLE-BACK
AND TAKE LYCO'S
TUNNEL. IF THAT'S
WRONG, WE'LL
TAKE ELIAS'S
AND--



THERE
YOU ARE!



AAAHH!



POK



WHO
DARES?!



NICE TRY,
BUTTER-
FINGERS.





JUST A FEW MORE
METERS AND WE
SHOULD BE HOME
FR--

"DEAD END"...
"HOME FREE"...
YOU'RE A
BIGGER JINX
THAN JOKER!

MAN, I HOPE
THEIR MISSION
IS GOING BETTER
THAN OURS!*

*SEE FOR
YOURSELF--
LAST
ISSUE.

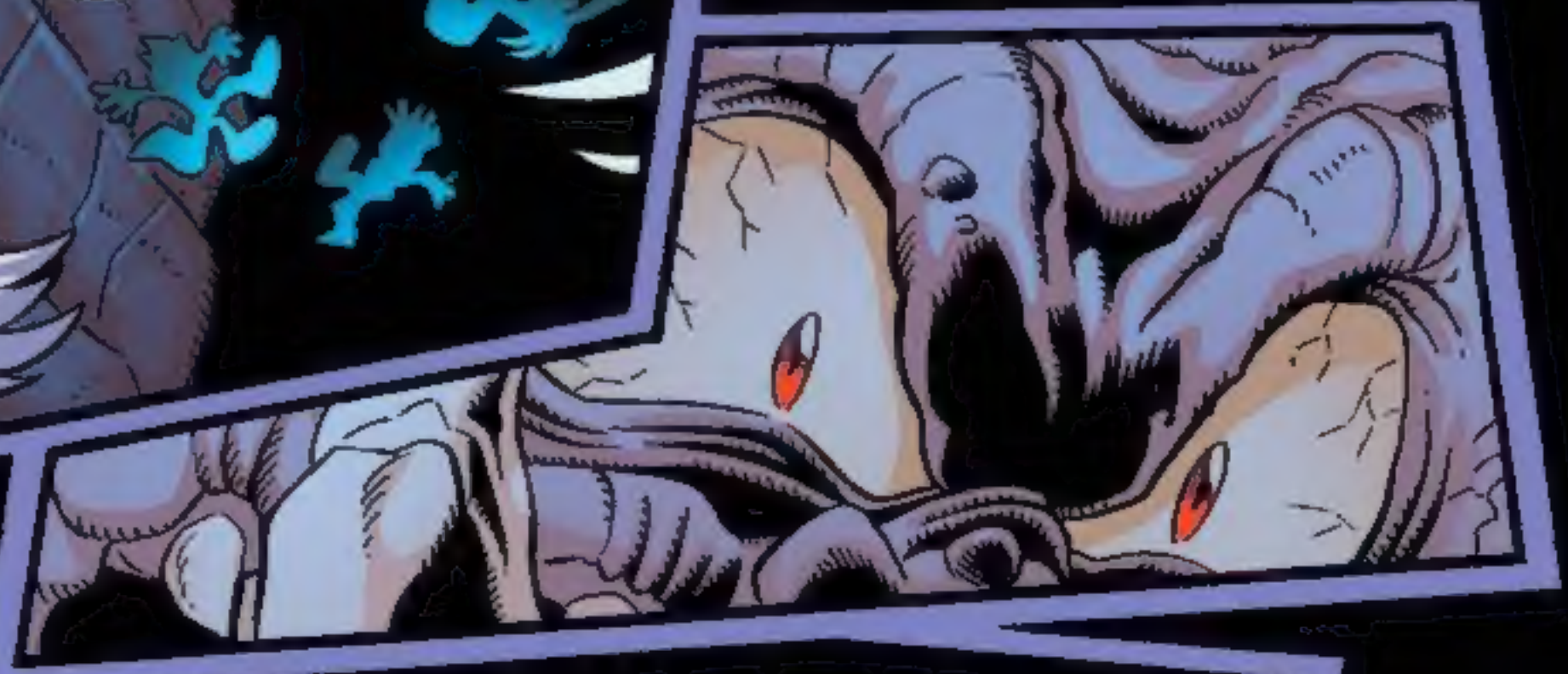
THERE'S
OUR EXIT!
WING-SUITS
THE SECOND
YOU'RE
CLEAR!

RARGH!!
NO
ESCAPE!





**NO
ESCAPE!**





HURH-HURH-HURH...

I DON'T KNOW WHO
YOU WERE, INTERLOPERS...
BUT YOU WON'T BOTHER
ME AGAIN.

IS THIS THE END OF THE SECRET FREEDOM
FIGHTERS? ALREADY?! AND WHAT IS
NAUGUS PREPARING UNDER THE CITY?
SURE LOOKS DANGEROUS! COME BACK
NEXT TIME FOR ALL THE ANSWERS!
UNTIL THEN, ENJOY SONIC THE HEDGEHOG,
THE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE,
AND THE ENTIRE SONIC GRAPHIC NOVEL
LIBRARY!